



For Immediate Release
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BRAC Good News for Fort Polk

(Washington, D.C.) – U.S. Sen. David Vitter announced today that the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk received good news in this round of Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC), as it will not be adversely affected in this year’s closures and could pick up military personnel and assets from other bases around the country.

“Central Louisiana has long supported Fort Polk and the local military community,” said Vitter. “Over the years, I worked with Congressmen Jim McCrery and Rodney Alexander to secure more than \$211 million in military construction funding for Fort Polk since 2000. We’ve been checking the boxes we need to check in making improvements at Fort Polk, and we’re looking at this as an opportunity to attract more units here with base realignments overseas and around our country.”

The \$211 million in military construction dollars since 2000 is an investment that has helped to further position Fort Polk’s standing and the central Louisiana communities that support it. Fort Polk has a \$670 million impact annually on the central Louisiana economy, according to the Louisiana Department of Economic Development.

Vitter and other members of the Louisiana delegation have an ongoing dialog with Department of Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, the Secretary of the Army and other Army officials about the future of Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk.

“I will continue to work with McCrery and Alexander on projects like widening La. 28 and acquiring additional land for Fort Polk. In addition, we will try to use the realignment of military equipment and personnel from across the country as an opportunity to strengthen the military presence at Fort Polk and the vital role it plays in maintaining our nation’s defense,” said Vitter.